

Clerk's Office Circuit let London Co

June 29. 1898

The foregoing Certificate and Charter of the "Falls Church Milling Company" was this day received in said office and recorded, and is hereby Certified to the Secretary of the Commonwealth for recordation in his office according to law.

Teste. E. L. Bennett C.

# "Little Gems"

## "The St. Louis Colored Colt Show"

To Hon. C. E. Nicol, Judge of the Loudoun Circuit Court

This is to certify that the undersigned desire to form a joint Stock Company, to be constituted of themselves and such other persons as they may associate with them to be incorporated for the purpose and upon the terms hereinafter set forth in accordance with the provisions of Section 1145 of the Code of Virginia as amended by the Acts of Assembly 1891-2 - Chap. 323  
2 " " " " " " 1895-6 Ch. 748 C.  
So far as affected by said amendments.

1st. The name of said Company shall be "The St. Louis Colored Colt Show"

2nd. The purposes for which it is formed are the improvement of horses; to provide for and hold exhibitions of horses & colts and to arrange and conduct contests of speed and jumping; and such other tests of excellence in horses and colts as are usual at County fairs, but no gambling of any sort shall be allowed.

3rd. The Capital Stock of said Company is to be not less than Five hundred dollars nor more than Three thousand dollars, to be divided into shares of Five dollars each.

Clerk of the Circuit Court - Gary M. Clemens

Historic Records



## Land Records & Deed Research

Loudoun is one of only a few counties in the Commonwealth that has records dating from its formation in 1757 when it split from Fairfax County. The Historic Records and Deed Research division includes all historic court records from 1757-1980s and land records from 1757-present. Research can be conducted by using both in-house and online databases and paper indexes. Our staff can provide guidance and suggestions to start your research but **cannot provide research services or legal advice**. To prepare for your visit please review our online links to indexes and county databases which provide a starting point in your records research.

## If you Visit the Archives

There is a court order that establishes court security protocols that serve the best interests of all visitors to the various courts and court-related offices in the Courts Complex. Therefore, electronic mobile devices such as cellphones with cameras, laptop computers, and electronic tablets are currently not permitted in the Courts Complex. To assist the patrons of the Historic Records/Archives research room, the Clerk's Office provides computer workstations with internet access so our patrons can review the websites of other historic records museums and historic records research organizations to assist with research needs in the Clerk's Office.

## Historic Records and Deed Research Staff

Gary M. Clemens,  
Clerk of Circuit Court

Eric Larson,  
Historic Records Manager

Sarah Markel,  
Historic Records Clerk

Alyssa Fisher,  
Historic Records Clerk

Volunteers  
John Fishback  
Rose Marie Walter  
Brenda Butler

**Front Cover:** St. Louis Colored Colt Show Company, 1898, Charter Book 1858-1915 Page 123.

The Village of St Louis was founded by freed slaves after the Civil War. In response to the Upperville Colt and Horse show, which did not allow African American participation, Charles McQuay, a former slave, and other black community leaders formed the St. Louis Colored Colt Show Company in 1898. The show was to "...provide for and hold exhibitions of horses and colts and to arrange and conduct contests of speed and jumping and such other tests of excellence in horses and colts usual at county fairs, but no gambling of any sort shall be allowed."



## “Little Gems”

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## THE MANAGER'S ORDER BOOK: YEAR IN REVIEW

BY ERIC LARSON, HISTORIC RECORDS MANAGER



Welcome to our winter edition of *Little Gems*. We start 2017 with a new design to our newsletter along with interesting articles on a "part of a spoon" judgement, county road cases, and the Board of Supervisor Minutes. 2016 was another busy year for our staff and volunteers and will continue into 2017 with a set of new conservation projects and programs. At this time, I would like to highlight some of our major accomplishments in 2016 and introduce our new projects and programs for the upcoming year.

### Loose Papers & Indexing

Two long term indexing and flat filing projects of will packets and judgements are moving forward. All original wills from 1757-1880 and judgements from 1757-1767 are flat filed and indexed. The remaining criminal cases were flat filed and indexed (All Criminal Files 1757-1955 are indexed). The 1853-1866 Birth and Death Register was indexed and proofed. All of our Free Black and Slave papers were re-indexed and the *Record of Free Negroes 1844-1861* was transcribed.

### Conservation

Historic Records received two Library of Virginia (LVA) conservation grants totaling \$28,020. The two 2016 LVA grants conserved four deed books, two will books, Death Register I (1853-1864), 1822 Superior Court Order Book and the Roster of Confederate Soldiers. We also received funding for replacing 117 original deed and will book binders. Many of these original book binders were 75-100 years old. In-house conservation began on Land Tax Books that date back to 1851. To date 18 Land Tax books were conserved in 2016.



### Programs

In 2016, a total of 558 people attended three First Friday Events and Black History Month Programs. This was our largest yearly turnout for events since the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Loudoun and Town of Leesburg in 2007-2008. Historic Records had the privilege of partnering with many local historic sites in 2016; Oatlands, The Thomas Balch Library, The Black History Committee, Fairfax Clerk of Circuit Court Archives, Mosby Heritage Area Association, Ketocin Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Waterford Foundation.

## Technology

Most of our technology enhancements in 2016 were scanning will and deed books and expanding our website. Over 100,000 deed book images were prepared for transfer to the Land Record's System. When the Land Record's System's upgrade is completed in 2017, all deeds from 1757-present can be accessed. (Loudoun's land records can only be viewed online through a paid subscription service). The will book scanning is nearly completed and these images will also be added to our Land Records' System. The website indexes were greatly expanded and are updated monthly by staff.

## Upcoming Projects

Some of our largest projects this year will be further conservation of the Land Tax Books, flat filing, and indexing wills and judgements. Staff and volunteers are also preparing some smaller groups of papers for indexing as well as updating and proofing previous indexed documents.

Historic Records will have three First Friday events in 2017 (April, June and October). The April 7, 2017 First Friday is a joint open house with Loudoun's World War I Centennial Committee. This event will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of America's entry into World War I. Also look for additional programming and exhibits on our website throughout the year.

Lastly, look for a walking map of the Court House Grounds, that will have the history of the grounds and memorials .

From Historic Records we wish all of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year, and look forward seeing you in 2017!

### 2016 Historic Records and Deed Research Division Stats

Date	Patrons	Email	Mail	Phone	In House Copies	Sent Copies	Total Copies	Vol. Hours	Scans
16-Jan	240	79	87	285	1177	355	1530	45.5	792
16-Feb	445	48	126	366	2271	445	2716	65	1868
16-Mar	426	82	100	372	2451	415	2886	69	1720
16-Apr	471	127	132	399	1616	491	2107	69	2902
16-May	355	51	111	358	1910	470	2379	55.5	0
16-Jun	588*	67	101	372	2064	623	2687	240**	1495
16-Jul	436	86	115	375	2183	583	2766	205**	1022
16-Aug	429	109	134	397	2306	604	2910	168	2487
16-Sep	375	229	121	374	2127	431	2558	50.5	1010
16-Oct	578*	67	149	391	2439	817	3247	100.5	2258
16-Nov	261	66	115	335	1648	466	2114	61.5	634
16-Dec	263	61	93	293	1240	344	1832	57	1185
<b>Total</b>	<b>3994</b>	<b>1072</b>	<b>1384</b>	<b>4317</b>	<b>23432</b>	<b>6044</b>	<b>29732</b>	<b>741.5</b>	<b>17373</b>

\*Oct First Friday Program 190 Visitors

\*Includes 160 for June First Friday Event

\*\*June 156 hours worked by 2 summer interns

\*\* July Includes 136 hours worked by 2 summer interns

\*\* August Includes 110 hours worked by 2 summer interns



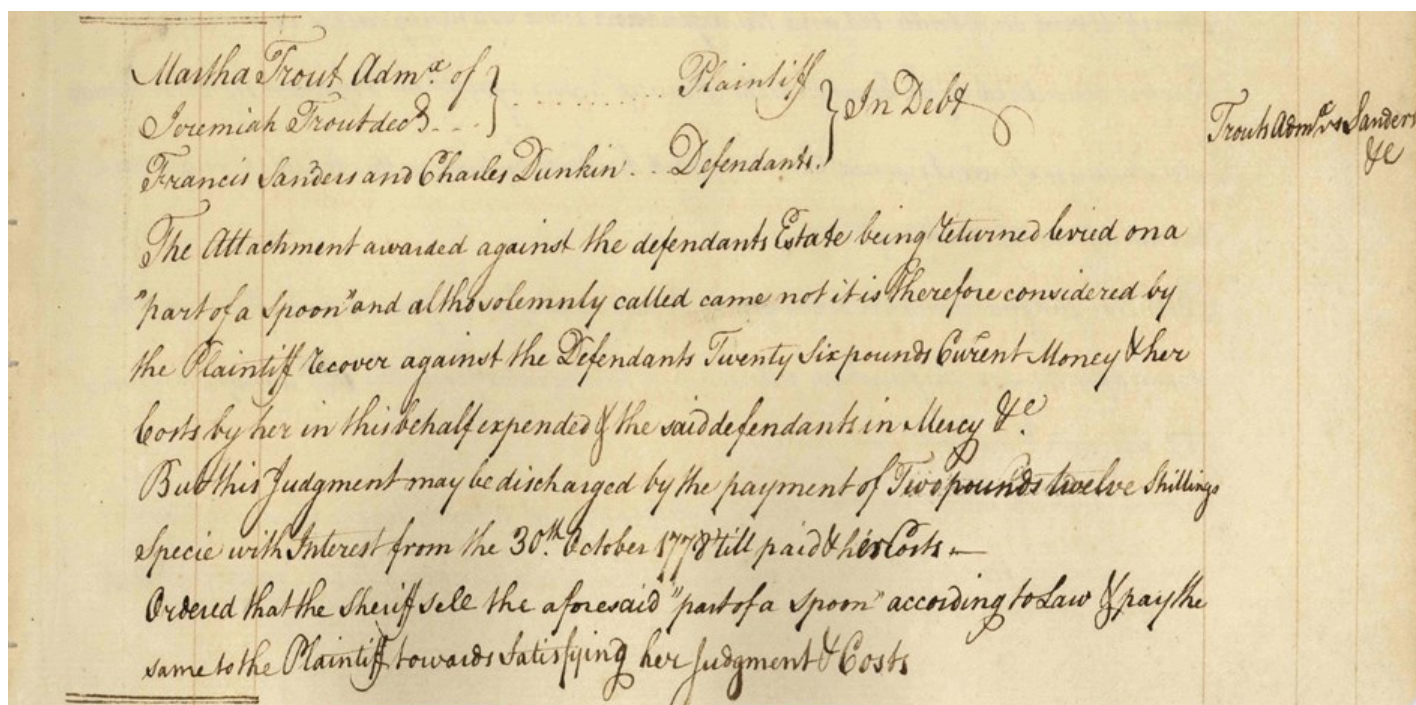
## "Little Gem": Did you say "Part of a Spoon?"

By Sarah Markel

As I was looking through the Book of "Little Gems," I was taken back by the entry "Part of a Spoon-OB I." I found this to be a strange phrase and was curious why the Clerk would have entered it into the "Little Gems."

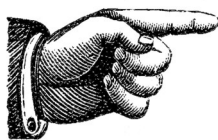
Upon reading the entry in Order Book I Page 7 I knew instantly that this judgement had been entered purely for its comedic nature. According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary a judgement is "a formal utterance or an authoritative opinion; or a formal decision given by a court." Since 1757 the Clerk of the Circuit Court has been caretaker of millions of judgements. With each disagreement the Court ruled on, a new judgement was, and still is, recorded and filed away. Most of these judgements are cut and dry and most would agree they can be very boring to read.

For this reason when the Clerk stumbled upon this judgement from 1785, shown below, they must have chuckled a little.



This judgement reads: "the attachment awarded against the defendants Estate being returned levied on a "Part of a Spoon" and altho [Sic] solemnly called came not it is therefore considered by the Plaintiff recover against the Defendants Twenty Six pounds current money & her costs by her in this behalf expended of the said defendants in Mercy. But this judgement may be discharged by the payment of Two pounds twelve shillings specie with Interest from the 30th October 1778 till paid & her costs- Ordered that the Sheriff sell the aforesaid "Part of a Spoon" according to Law & pay the same to the Plaintiff towards satisfying her judgement & cost.

I can picture the look the Sherrieff must have given the Judge as he was leaving the Court House "Part of Spoon" in hand to sell. This judgement is just one of many examples of never knowing what you may find in a collection of papers. Even the most cut and dry court documents may have a little moment of humor just waiting to be stumbled upon.



Tell us about Your "Little Gems" of Loudoun County History.

Go to [www.loudoun.gov/Clerk/LittleGems](http://www.loudoun.gov/Clerk/LittleGems) and complete the "Little Gems" Form. Future editions of our newsletter will highlight a "Little Gem" submitted by our readers. So get researching, the next spotlight may be your discovery!

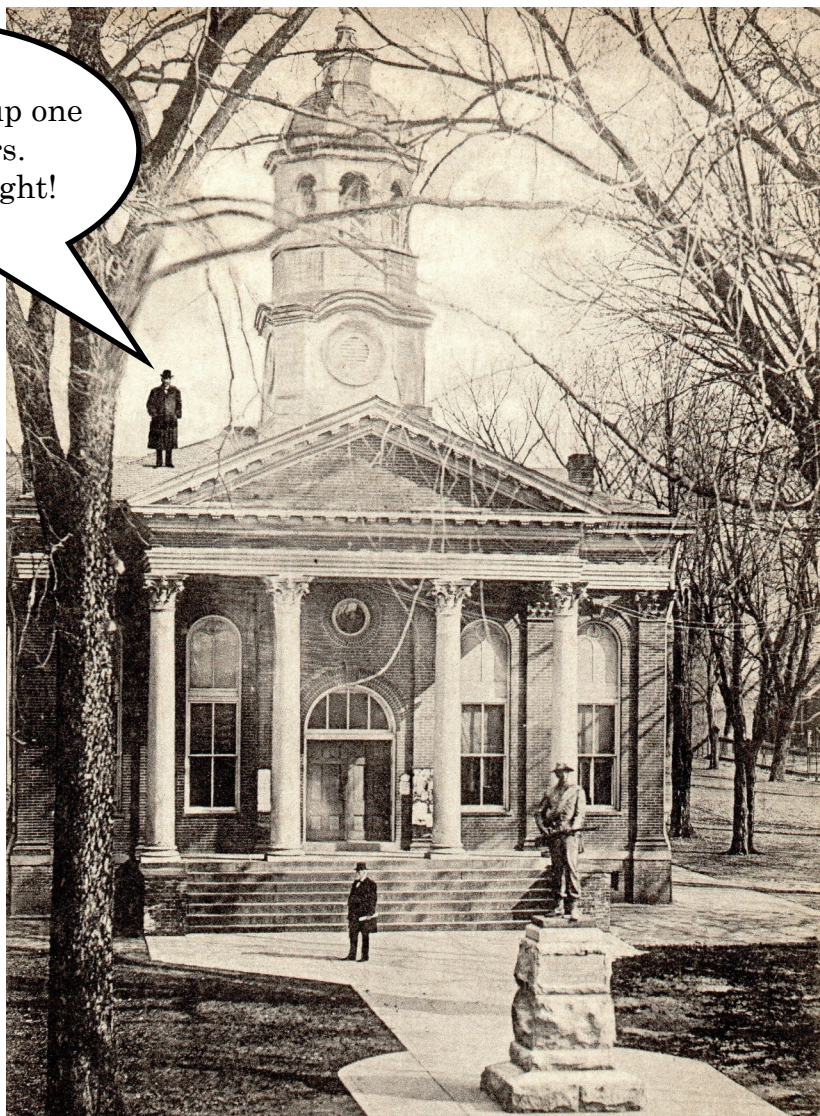
I was told to go up one flight of stairs.  
This can't be right!

### "Where is Archives?"

When customers arrive at the Archives front counter the first thing they say is, "Do you know that you are hidden in the basement?"

In our last edition we introduced the picture at right with two gentlemen looking for the Archives division. Follow their adventures in future editions.

Take a look at our previous newsletter to compare the gentleman's progress.

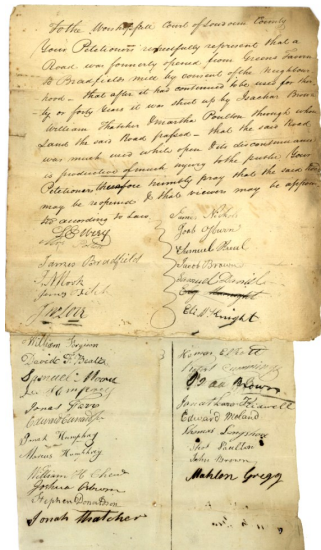




## An Introduction to the Road Cases Collection 1757-1933

By Alyssa Fisher

Loudoun's diverse roadways are consistently under construction with improvements, alterations, and repairs. While the Virginia Department of Transportation is responsible for public roads today, Loudoun



Joseph Cummins Petition  
with signatures of neighbors  
(RP 1772-002)

County and its citizens used to be responsible for maintaining, constructing, and petitioning for new road ways. Legislation regarding the construction and maintenance of roads within Virginia began in 1632, including the requirement of each man to work on the roads or pay for another to work in their place. Alterations of these laws in the 1650s and 1660s placed road responsibility in the hands of the county courts. Historic Records & Deed Research has a collection of road cases which provide insight into the maintenance and construction of roads within Loudoun from 1757 to 1933. These documents are split into several categories which include petitions, viewers, reports, bridges, bills, hands, overseers (surveyors), and miscellaneous papers. The Road Cases Collection provides evidence of travel routes, significant geological and industrial landmarks, locations of certain farms and local families, as well as details of road construction technology.<sup>1</sup>

Construction and alteration of roadways began with a petition. By 1786, legislation required petitions for new roads to provide "the convenience of traveling to [the] county Courthouse, to any public warehouse, landing, ferry, mill, lead or iron works, or to the seat of government." Early petitions in Loudoun from 1757 to 1799 focused on mills, trade routes, westward expansion including notes on mountain gaps, waterways, ferries, and pre-existing roads, as well as evidence of a large Quaker population with multiple references to meetinghouses. Joseph Cummins petitioned for a road change in September of 1772 stating:

About two years ago your Worships granted an order for the opening [of] a road from the Blue Ridge at Oldacres's Mill to Leven Powell's Mill which was designed for the benefit of your Petitioners in general but for some material reasons it would be much to the advantage of your petitioners to have the said road turned to leave the road as it now stands at Thomas Drakes Meadow & to go a direct course to Hezekiah Guy's Grist Mill & near the Quaker Meeting house, thence to cross Goose Creek at James Leith's & to keep that old road to the said Powell's Mill road, the advantages arising from this change would be first making the distance much shorter, Secondly, giving an easy passage to and from the road, mill & muling [sic] house which is much wanting, the ways at present being very difficult.<sup>2</sup>

Similar trends appear in petitions between 1800 and 1849, but with additional landmarks including turnpikes and tolls, stores, taverns, blacksmith shops, and schools. In December of 1810, William Best petitioned to keep a road open which ran between Green's Tavern and Bradfield's mill. Edward Carter petitioned to change the course of a road that connected Millville to the blacksmith shop of Cuthbert Powell in 1833 and in 1846, Timothy Taylor requested changes be made to a road that led from the mill of Charles Taylor to Purcel's Store.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 'A History of Roads in Virginia "The Most Convenient Wayes,"' Virginia Department of Transportation, Office of Public Affairs, 2006, 5-7.

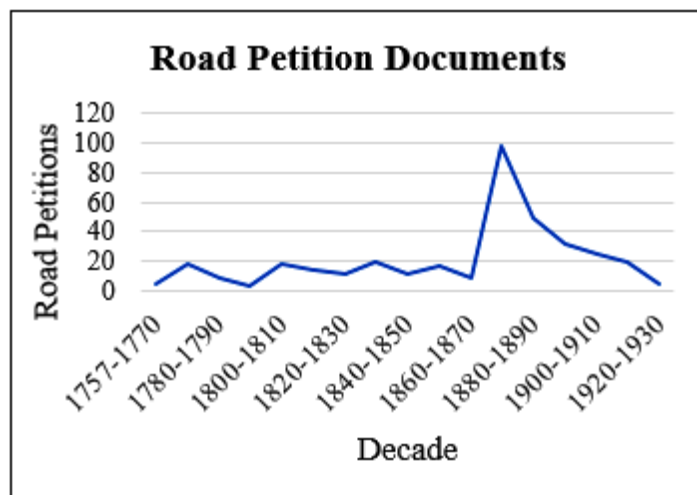
<sup>2</sup> Joseph Cummins & Others, Road Petitions, Loudoun County Clerk's Office, RP 1772-002.

<sup>3</sup> "An Act concerning Public Roads," A Collection of All Such Acts of the General Assembly of Virginia, of a Public & Permanent Nature, As Are Now In Force (Richmond: Samuel Pleasants, 1814), 37; William Best & Others, Road Petitions, Loudoun County Clerk's Office, RP 1810-001; Edward Carter, Road Petitions, Loudoun County Clerk's Office, RP 1833-001; Timothy Taylor, Road Petitions, Loudoun County Clerk's Office, RP 1846-003; Joseph Tate, *Digest of the Laws of Virginia, Which Are Of A Permanent Character and General Operation* (Richmond: Smith and Palmer, 1841), 798.



While records from the first half of the nineteenth century present an increase in the desire for developed infrastructure, 52% of petitions in the entire collection fall between 1850 and 1899. Petitions for roadways connecting mills, waterways, towns, and other roads and turnpikes increased significantly, while citizens also placed greater importance on creating better access to shops, schools, factories, tan yards, quarries, kilns, foundries, and the railroad. References to churches increased with a greater variety of denominations.

In July of 1868 citizens “residing in the neighborhood of Curtis Grubb’s Merchant Mill, Hough’s Woolen Factory & Carding Mill & Lockett’s Store,” presented a petition for the improvement of a road “in such condition at all seasons of the year (its bed being located for several hundred yards through a branch or creek of considerable size) as to render it impassable.” Residents near Lovettsville in 1894 petitioned for a road to provide access “to the Cheese factory of Grubb and Goodhart,” suggesting the “road would afford a more direct route to Brunswick on the B&O.R.R. to the cheesery aforementioned [sic].” Harrison Osburn petitioned for a change in the road “from Woodgrove by the Ketocin Church to Purcellville, James Chapel, Norwood Mills & other places of interest,” so that it would “terminate at or near Copelands Smith & Wheelright [sic] shop on the road leading from Hillsborough to Purcellville.”



In 1878, Samuel N. Brown requested a road in Mt. Gilead to access “the Colored School House.” He remarked “there is no road to or from said school house and the road is an absolute necessity.” The railroad in Loudoun extended from Leesburg to Hamilton by 1870, spurring an increase in petitions for roads to provide better access to the rails including George W. Janney and J.K. Taylor’s request for “a new road leading from Smith’s Mill to the Hamilton Depot” in 1871. While an influx of road petitions occurred in the second half of the nineteenth century, petitions decreased steadily from 1900 to 1933, at which time the state took over responsibility for public roads.<sup>4</sup>

Submitted petitions led to the appointment of road viewers. Legislation required three or more individuals appointed and sworn in “to view the ground along which such road is proposed to be conducted, and to report to them [the courts] truly and impartially the conveniences and inconveniences which will result, as well to individuals as to the public, if such way shall be opened.” In April of 1829, road viewers William Thrift, Isaac W. Hawling, and Joseph Mead submitted a report for a proposed road that would connect Gilmore’s Mill to the Carolina Road. They reported that the proposed road would be “of great utility to the public,” suggesting “that the disadvantages which will result therefrom to the owners of the lands through which said road is proposed to be conducted is of no consideration when compared with the great advantage which it will be of to the public by the opening of said road.” After viewers returned their report, the county court determined if the road would be useful. If the court deemed the road “convenient” the court sent summons to any individual whose land or tenancy would be affected by the construction of the road.<sup>5</sup>

Maintenance of roads depended on surveyors, or overseers. The courts divided the county into precincts, and appointed surveyors of the roads, “whose duty it shall be to superintend the road in his precinct, and see that the same be cleared and kept in good repair.” This individual remained surveyor until the court

<sup>4</sup> Curtis Grubb and others, Road Petitions, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office, RP 1868-003; L.W. Hickman and others, Road Petitions, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office, RP 1894-002; Harrison Osburn and Others, Road Petitions, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office, RP 1879-003; Samuel N. Brown, Road Petitions, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office, RP 1878-002; George W. Janney, J.K. Taylor, and others, Road Petitions, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office, RP 1871-004; Herbert H. Harwood Jr., *Rails to the Blue Ridge: The Washington and Old Dominion Railroad 1847-1968* (Fairfax Station, VA: Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, 2000), 131.

<sup>5</sup> “An Act Concerning Public Roads,” 37; William Gilmore, Road Reports, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office, RR1832-006; Tate, 798-799.

appointed another to take their place. In June of 1844, the court ordered “Robert Wade be appointed Surveyor of the road leading from Tidball’s Mill to Broad Run in place of Charles Dawson.” Legislation required that:

Every surveyor of a road shall cause the same to be constantly kept well cleared and smoothed, and thirty feet wide at the least; and at the fork or crossing of every public road, shall cause to be erected, and kept in repair from time to time, a stone, or otherwise an index on a post or tree, with plain inscriptions thereon, in large letters, directing to the most noted place to which each of the said roads shall lead, and may take stone or wood for that purpose from any adjoining land.<sup>6</sup>

The court reimbursed surveyors for the cost of materials through levies, and also ordered surveyors to maintain causeways and bridges, “twelve feet broad at the least, [and] convenient and safe.” If a bridge or causeway became too difficult for the surveyor and his laborers to construct or maintain, legislation gave power to the county court to find contractors for the job, financed through levies. Laws also regulated materials to be used for repairs and general maintenance, most of which came from adjoining properties with permission of land owners, and through the appointment of “house-keepers” sworn in by justices of the peace, who viewed and valued materials used from the property of land owners. In 1810, Reuben Hutchison acting as the Surveyor of the Road that ran between William Polin’s property and Owsley’s branch, required the use of “wheel carriages” to repair the road. The courts empowered Hutchison:

To impress such necessary wheel carriages, draught horses, or oxen, with their gear & driver belonging to any person who, or their servants or slaves are appointed to work on the said road, he the said Reuben Hutchison having procured a valuation by the day to be made thereof by Jacob Daymud & Daniel Palmer two honest house keepers hereby appointed for that purpose who being sworn before some Justice of the peace for this County are to make such valuation & give the owner or owners a Certificate thereof to intitle [sic] him or them to an allowance for the same in the next County levy.<sup>7</sup>

The courts empowered surveyors to use materials for the purpose of repairing roads, but it also held surveyors to task, as indicated by the over 400 references to criminal cases where individuals did not keep the road in repair. These records can be found in the Criminal Papers Index.<sup>8</sup>

Surveyors managed the maintenance of roads, but individuals from the area completed the work. The court appointed laborers on public roads which included “all male laboring persons, of the age of sixteen years or more,” up to the age of 60. This excluded male “masters of two or more male laboring slaves of the age of sixteen years or more.” If the individuals appointed to work on the road did not show up for work, refused to labor, or failed to provide another person of equal ability to work in their stead, they had to pay a fine. Road hand records suggest any number between one road hand and 50 road hands worked on construction projects. The majority of crews fell between one and ten people. Road hand papers include names of individuals who worked on certain roads, the surveyor/overseer that they worked for, and often a description of the specific road they constructed or repaired. In June of 1819, Gustavus Elgin enlisted the help of eight hands to work on the road that connected the Old Carolina road near Elgin’s Smith shop to the road that led from Beamerdaffer’s Mill to Leesburg. These eight individuals included John Moss, two of Hannah Tillett’s slaves named Harry and Tom, Jesse Timm’s slave Wesley, a free black named Sam Lucas, Benjamin Thornton, Thomas Holson, and Gustavus Elgin’s slave Harry. In October 1853, Jesse Evans served as

<sup>6</sup> “An Act concerning Public Roads,” 38.

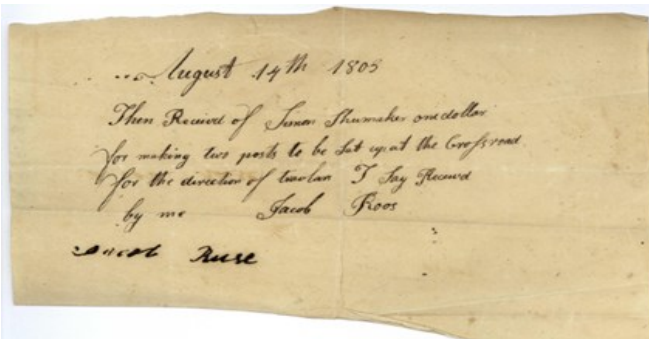
<sup>7</sup> Reuben Hutchison, Loudoun County: Road and Bridge Records: Road Hands: RH 1810-001.

<sup>8</sup> “An Act concerning Public Roads,” 38-39; Tate, 800-802; Robert Wade, Road Overseers Loudoun County Clerk’s Office, RO 1844-001.



Surveyor of the road from the Loudoun and Jefferson Line through Key's Gap to the road leading from Hillsboro to Harper's Ferry. The courts allotted Evans "all the tithables under the age of sixty years, who reside within the bounds" of that particular district as road hands. Though a specific number of individuals is not listed, the necessity of allotting hands of taxable age up to the age of 60, from an entire district, suggests a significant undertaking in maintaining that road.<sup>9</sup>

The exchange of payment for labor and for materials to build the roads can be found in road bills. These documents not only showcase the amount of money used for repairs and construction, but also list tools and materials used by the laborers providing insight into the technology behind the construction of roads over time. Many of the road bills include paying individuals for the use of horses, wagons, and gear. Early road bills include the use of logs and timber, construction of road signs, or the blasting of rock. Simon Shumaker



Simon Shumaker's Road Bill (RB 1803-001)

received "one dollar for making two posts to be sat up at the crossroad for the direction of travlars" [sic] in 1803. Eaton & Omersetter received payment for "iron work done on [a] road" in Mount Gilead in 1826. Frank Grimes received payment for a half day's work on a road "laying stone as a stone fence builder" in 1849. Later road bills specify stone types used, such as the sixteen loads of flagstone provided by William H. Adams in 1868. Specific types of wood used, such as White Oak, and lists of tools including shovels, spikes, drills, scoops, plows, sledges, and picks are also included in later road bills.<sup>10</sup>

State legislation regarding the construction, maintenance, management, and funding of public roads evolved over time with economic shifts, advances in technology (turnpikes and railroads), population growth, and westward expansion. Even with these amendments the county remained responsible for roads until the early 1930s. While the Road Case Collection provides a plethora of information regarding the formation of Loudoun's infrastructure, it also serves as evidence of individuals not found in other documents. If individuals did not own land, but they worked on the roads, or provided materials for road construction, their names show up in these papers. Businesses and tradesmen, as well as approximate dates of operation appear in these records. In some cases, plats of the proposed road with labeled landowners and landmarks are included. The possibilities for research in these documents are endless. The Byrd Road Act of 1932 established the Secondary System of Highways which gave counties the opportunity to relinquish responsibility for road construction and maintenance to the State. It is only fitting that the last document found in the Road Cases Collection is a 1933 "Allocations to the Secondary System of State Highways," marking the end of Loudoun's responsibility for maintaining public roads.<sup>11</sup>

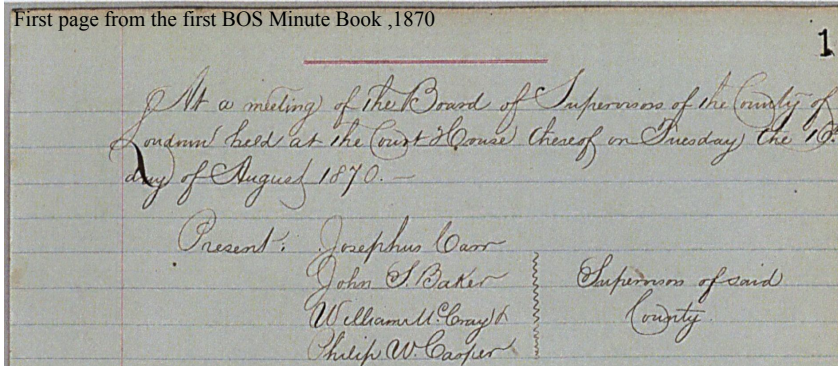
<sup>9</sup> "An Act concerning Public Roads," 38; Tate, 801; Gustavus Elgin, Loudoun County: Road and Bridge Records: Road Hands: RH 1819-001; Jesse Evans, Loudoun County: Road and Bridge Records: Road Hands: RH 1853-001; Tate, 801.

<sup>10</sup> Eaton & Omersetter; Road Bills, RB 1826-001; Frank Grimes; RB 1849-003.; William H. Adams, RB 1868-001; Simon Shumaker, Loudoun County: Road and Bridge Records: Road Bills, RB 1803-001.

<sup>11</sup> "Allocations to the Secondary System of State Highways for the Fiscal Year July 1, 1932 to June 30, 1933," Loudoun County: Road and Bridge Records: Road Bills and Accounts, RB1933-001; 'A History of Roads in Virginia "The Most Convenient Wayes,"' 33.

## Board of Supervisor's Records and African American Research by Eric Larson

From 1757-1867, the [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#) did not exist in Virginia. In Virginia the county courts and justices were responsible for many of the duties that are now carried out by the BOS. Besides judging civil, chancery, and criminal cases, probating wills, and recording deeds, the court and its justices also set the tax rates, created regulations, received road petitions, appointed county officials, maintained the county's law enforcement and managed the county's primitive school system. In short, the court and its justices were the law and administrative power in Virginia's counties until after the Civil War.



In 1867, Virginia's new constitution removed much of the governing authority of the county courts and placed it with the newly created BOS. From 1867-1874, the BOS members were elected by townships, but in 1874 townships were abolished and the supervisors were elected by districts, as it is still done today. This constitution also created a free public education system in Virginia.

While researching post-1865 court documents on African Americans for Black History Month, I decided to review the Board of Supervisors Minute Books for the same purpose. The BOS Minute Books (The books are [online](#) and the originals are in the BOS office) begin where the court authority ended. These books show the decisions the BOS made with regard to schools, roads, law enforcement, taxes and even the maintenance and expansion of the court house and grounds. The minute books have a general index at the beginning of each book, but to truly grasp their extensive content you should go page by page through the books.

Focusing primarily on Loudoun's segregated school system, I quickly discovered that the BOS minutes also addressed African American issues of civil rights, dental care, the Alms House, mental health, and the collection of taxes. Throughout this article are some of the more historic and also obscure BOS minute entries that impacted the lives of Loudoun's black community.

### Schools

At the March 18, 1940 BOS meeting, a letter from [Charles Houston](#), attorney for the County-Wide League, was recorded in the BOS minutes. Formed in the 1930s, the [County-Wide League](#) lobbied on the behalf of African-American schools for equal education resources and facilities. Mr. Houston was a well-known African American lawyer from Washington, DC who spent his career fighting for the civil rights of all Black Americans in America's schools, justice system, and military. Before Martin Luther King Jr., Houston was the most powerful civil rights leader in the United States.

*In re: "A letter from Charles H. Houston, attorney for the County-Wide League and Parent Teachers Association, a resolution from Leesburg Colored Parent Teachers Association, The Choral Club of Providence Colored Baptist Church, Leesburg and the Mt. Olivet Colored Baptist Church, concerning the building of a colored high school in Leesburg, and the transportation of colored pupils were read to the Board and ordered to be filed. (Board of Supervisor Minutes March 18, 1940, page 23)*



Another letter from the County-Wide League dated January 28, 1956 in the BOS minutes addressed the segregation of Loudoun's Schools.

*"Whereas we know that the conclusion that segregated schools serve the best interests of Negroes is based solely upon ignorance and superstition... the pattern of racial segregation nurtured through the segregated public schools retards the development of the cultural and democratic processes of the entire community..."* (Board of Supervisor Minutes February 7, 1956, page 180)

At the August 6, 1956 BOS meeting, Sterling M. Harrison, Loudoun's Commonwealth Attorney and President of the local chapter of the [Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties](#), submitted a resolution opposing any desegregation of the county's school system. The Defenders of State Sovereignty was founded in Petersburg, Virginia in 1954 and was Virginia's response to the Supreme Court ruling [Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas](#). This organization believed in strict segregation of Virginia schools and was responsible for shutting down school districts throughout Virginia to protest desegregation. The resolution below passed the BOS with no opposition.

Board of Supervisors of Loudoun County have proposed a \$700,000.00 bond issue for the purpose of improving the schools in Loudoun County; and

Whereas, we have been informed, through the public press, that one of the conditions of this proposed bond issue is that "no steps should be taken -- until and unless reasonable assurances have been given by the parents of colored children of the county that they will conform to our considered opinion that their education can be promoted better by continued school attendance on a segregated basis"; and

Whereas, we know that the conclusion that segregated schools serve the best interests of Negroes is based solely upon ignorance and superstition; and further, we know from bitter experience, as well as from modern knowledge, that racially segregated schools handicap and limit the educational advancement of Negro youth; and

Whereas, the pattern of racial segregation nurtured through the segregated public schools retards the development of the cultural and democratic processes of the entire community; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court has declared that enforced racial segregation in public schools is unlawful; and

Whereas, it is our considered opinion that the resolution adopted by the School Board and Board of Supervisors is another effort by them to intimidate Negro parents, teachers and children into continuing to accept discriminatory educational practices currently existing in this county.

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the County Wide League, Bull Run Elementary Parent-Teacher Association, Barnetker Parent-Teacher Association, and the Loudoun County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, meeting in joint assembly, reject the proposal contained in the aforesaid resolution and urge all other Negroes of Loudoun County to do likewise; and direct that this resolution be signed by the presidents of our respective organizations and copies be forwarded to the School Board and the Board of Supervisors of Loudoun County.

COUNTY WIDE LEAGUE  
By John W. Manser  
President

BULL RUN ELEMENTARY PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION  
By Geneva Stewart  
President

BARNETKER PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION  
By Gurley Manser  
President

THE LOUDOUN COUNTY BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE  
By William McK. Jackson  
President

The Board took no action or made any remarks as this letter expressed the feelings of these organizations.

Petition against the segregation of Loudoun Public Schools, BOS Minute Book, 1956

*"NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that in the event the integration edict is imposed upon the public school system of Loudoun County, Virginia, thereafter there will not be forthcoming as a result of the action of this board any funds for maintenance and operation of any school ordered to be integrated in the County Loudoun."*  
(Board of Supervisor Minutes August 6, 1956, page 223)

In Re: Integration, Public Schools:

Stirling M. Harrison, as President of the local chapter of the Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties, presented and read a proposed resolution with reference to the imposition of integration of the public school system of Loudoun County.

Lucas D. Phillips, Campbell Legard, Roland Legard, J. M. Hughes, in addition to Mr. Harrison, spoke in favor of the resolution. Other members of the local chapter were present at this same time. No one spoke against this resolution.

On motion of Dr. Frazer and seconded by Mr. Phillips, the Board unanimously adopted the following resolution in the same words as presented by Mr. Harrison:

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Board of Supervisors of Loudoun County, Virginia, that the imposition of integration on the public school system of Loudoun County would be extremely detrimental to the interests of the people of the county and disastrous to the public school system therein, as well as in contravention of Article IX of the Constitution of Virginia, which specifically prohibits teaching white and colored children in the same school; and,

WHEREAS, in justifiable anticipation of the School Board of Loudoun County being requested to integrate the schools of Loudoun County, the Board of Supervisors deem it their duty to take a position relative to the use of public funds for integrated schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that in the event the integration edict is imposed upon the public school system of Loudoun County, Virginia, thereafter there will not be forthcoming as a result of the action of this board any funds for the maintenance and operation of any school ordered to be integrated in the County of Loudoun.

Petition against the integration of Loudoun Public Schools, BOS Minute Book 1956

In the back of the BOS 1916-1924 Minute Book, are school papers inspecting student health and building conditions. In the 1919 Medical Inspection of Schools for the Bluemont colored school, the doctor inspected eight of the eighteen students for medical "defects" (Doctor checked the nose, throat, teeth, skin and scalp and misc. defects). One student was treated for an undisclosed problem. The inspection also includes remarks on a black student who was sent to the [Tuberculosis \(TB\) Sanitarium in Piedmont Virginia](#).

Another 1919 *Report on the Sanitary Condition of Schools*, stated that Bluemont had water, “good heat and fine light,” and that the “toilets need cleaning.” Another item was reported that the “closets need cleaning.”

### Misc. Minutes

The BOS 1916-1924 Minute Book included taxes collected on white and colored land for the 1915 Bridge Levy. In the Leesburg District, land owned by white residents brought in \$694.34 and land owned by African Americans collected \$18.28.

In the July 2, 1945 minutes, the BOS reported upgrades to the electric wiring at the Alms House for the white and colored quarters. The Alms House was the county poor house for the young and old, but was segregated by race.

### Colored Quarters

*Women's 2 ceiling lights-2 flush switches*

*Men's Rooms 2 ceiling lights-2 flush switches*

*Kitchen 1 ceiling light-1 flush switch-1 duplex receptacle*  
(Board of Supervisor Minutes July 2, 1945, page 23)

Medical Inspection of Schools, BOS  
Minute Book, 1919

On Jan 27, 1947 the BOS ordered \$30 “... be appropriated for the payment of two months board of Edward Sewell, colored, of Leesburg in the Sanatorium for colored folks.” (Board of Supervisor Minutes January 27, 1947, page 192) The sanatorium was likely the Piedmont Sanitarium in Burkeville, Virginia for African American tuberculosis patients.

In November 1950, the BOS approved \$100 for emergency dental care for black school children. “... be authorized to use out of the appropriation heretofore made a sum not to exceed \$100.00 for the dental care of two colored children.” (Board of Supervisor Minutes November 6, 1950, page 288)

**IN RE: PETITION TO REOPEN SWIMMING POOL**

Mrs. Gladys Bryant, representing no particular group, organization or agency presented a petition with one hundred twenty (120) signatures requesting that the swimming pool, owned by the Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company and presently not operating, be acquired by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and maintained for the use of all citizens under the Parks and Recreation Program.

Mr. Leach moved to accept the petition and to charge the Parks and Recreation Board with the study and report on the acquisition of the pool by the County and to report to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Leach's motion died for lack of a second. Mr. Leach withdrew his motion.

Upon motion by Mr. Arnold, seconded by Mr. Leach and unanimously approved, the Chairman of the Board is to appoint a three-man committee from the Board to investigate whether or not the facility is for sale.

Mr. Kirkpatrick, Chairman, appointed Mr. Leach, Mr. Arnold and Dr. Frazer to serve on this committee and report back at the next regular meeting.

Petition to Reopen Swimming Pool, BOS  
Minutes Book, 1965

In 1965, four African Americans were refused entry to the swimming pool in Leesburg operated by the Leesburg Volunteer Fire Department. A suit was filed in federal court that the Volunteer Fire Department violated 1964 Civil Rights Act. In 1967, a *Petition to Reopen Swimming Pool* was submitted to the BOS with 120 signatures requesting that the swimming pool “... be acquired by the Loudoun County Board Supervisors and maintained for the use of all citizens under the Parks and Recreation Program.” (1966-1969 BOS Minute Books Page 95).

The entries on Loudoun's African American residents included in this short article are just a small sample of what can be found in the BOS Minute Books. Besides entries on Loudoun's black community, you can find entries on World War I & II, and Vietnam, Loudoun's primitive welfare system, purchase of office equipment, heating of county offices, roads and much more. The BOS Minute Books are an essential resource and should be reviewed when conducting research on Loudoun County after 1871.



## **2017 PROGRAMS AND NEWSLETTERS**

### **Saturday February 11, 2017 12-2PM – From Slavery to Desegregation: Exhibition of African American Documents from the Historic Court and Board of Supervisors Records**

Using documents from Loudoun's historic court records and the Board of Supervisor's minutes, this exhibition follows Loudoun's African American Community from slavery to the end of segregation in Loudoun's schools and community.

### **First Friday April 7, 2017-Over There: The Great War in Loudoun's Memory**

(Joint Program with the Loudoun WWI Committee) April is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States entry into WWI. This exhibition will explore Loudoun's role in the war to end all wars.

### **First Friday June 2, 2017 – Preservation Act II**

Our June 2016 Open House on the conservation of the court's historic documents was such a hit we brought it back for a second act! Learn how Loudoun's court papers have held up against time, history and the environment. The staff will discuss and demonstrate how the records are being preserved in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **First Friday October 6, 2017-Rods, Links, and Poles: Historic Maps and Plats in the Court's Historic Records**

View the Historic Records staff and volunteers' favorite maps and plats in the court's historic 18th and 19th century deed and chancery records. The Loudoun County Office of Mapping and Geographic Information will exhibit 21st century mapping technology and how it can be used in historic research.

### **Newsletters**

Spring-April 2017

Summer-July 2017

Fall-October 2017

More events and exhibits will be added throughout the year. Please check our website for more details.

All Open Houses will be held at: Court Complex 18 E. Market St. Leesburg Virginia